

NEWCASTLE-EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my report upon the health and sanitation of your area for 1949.

Area, 208 acres.

Population, 786.

Number of Houses, 252.

Rateable Value, £3051.

Product of a Penny Rate, £12 2 9.

The town of Newcastle-Emlyn is an agricultural centre, situated on the River Teifi, 20 miles west of Carmarthen. It supplies the needs of a farming community scattered over a wide area, and in the summer months it is a popular tourist resort. There is a Milk Products Factory, a Shirt Factory and an Egg Grading Station in the town. Recently an Omnibus Company has opened a new depôt here.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Total Live Births 8, 5 Males and 3 Females. 2 Births were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate was 10.1 per 1000 as compared with 16.7 for England and Wales.

There were no Stillbirths and no Deaths of Infants under one year.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year for England and Wales was 32 per 1000 Births.

The number of Deaths in the area was 8, 5 Males and 3 Females, giving a Death Rate of 10.1 per 1000 as compared with 11.7 for England and Wales. The average age at death was 60. Cancer and tuberculosis accounted for 1 death each.

Infectious Diseases.

It is gratifying to note that no cases of polio-myelitis or of diphtheria were recorded during the year. Notifications received were as follows: Whooping Cough, 3; Measles, 3; Chicken Pox, 2; Scarlet Fever, 1. No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum or of Food Poisoning were reported.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 2 fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, 2 entered Sanatorium, another died, and now only 5 cases remain on the register. The Chest Physician may be consulted at his clinic in the town twice monthly.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

A clinic for infants and young children under 5 has been in existence for many years and serves a very useful purpose. No ante-natal clinic, however, has been established here, largely owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable premises. Ante-natal supervision is carried out by local medical practitioners and the district nurse.

Housing.

No houses have been erected by this Authority during the post-war period and an acute shortage of homes exists. Lack of suitable space within the District's narrow limits has been the chief stumbling block. Now, however, a building site has been acquired and progress is to be expected.

Water Supply.

In common with many other areas a relative shortage of water was experienced during this year's abnormally dry summer. The shortage was most marked at the higher levels in the town at peak periods, and was successfully overcome by an appeal to the public to economise and by cutting off supplies at certain hours. Replacement of old leaking pipes has been held up owing to scarcity of materials, but these have now been obtained and the work of laying the new pipes will proceed in due course.

Sewerage System.

Our old established sewerage system continues to operate adequately with the aid of regular repairs. Post-war difficulties and financial considerations are delaying the introduction of a modern comprehensive scheme of drainage and sewerage which is the ideal to aim at.

Scavenging.

An open cart collects refuse once weekly and conveys it to a dump, which in my opinion, is situated too near the town. I would recommend that a more distant site be chosen and that refuse be collected twice a week.

General Remarks.

The health of the community has remained good during the present year. The country is still experiencing the aftermath of war and many necessary improvements and changes have to be postponed in consequence. Our housing problem, however, is an urgent one, and I sincerely hope that substantial progress will soon be made.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

S. ROBERTS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.S.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.

